

# California GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 1996

Volume 87 No. 2

\$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

## MAR. 2

**CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO**  
Annual Orchid Auction. Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe, Carlsbad. Sat. Noon-4PM. Call 753-6952. Free parking rear bldg.

## MAR. 2-10

**THE HUNTINGTON Orchid Show.** 1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino. Weekdays Noon-4:30PM; Weekends 10:30AM-4:30PM. Fee.

## MAR. 8-10

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY**  
50th Annual Show & Plant Sale. Scottish Rite Center, Mission Valley. Fri. 6-10PM; Sat. 9am-6PM; Sun. 9AM-4PM. Call 465-2297. Fee.

## MAR. 9 & APR. 13

**CALIFORNIA NATIVESCAPES BOTANICAL GARDEN** S. D. Wild Animal Park. Tour 10AM. Gate admission. 487-2629.

## MAR. 9-10

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION** African Violet Show & Sale 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. 11AM-4PM; Sun. 9AM-3PM. \$3-\$5 fee.

## MAR. 12

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Dracaena Dragon Basket Class. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. Includes materials \$20.

## MAR. 15-17

**SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW, INC.** 51st Annual Show. Earl Warren Showgrounds, Las Positas Rd. Fri. 10AM-6PM; Sat/Sun. 9AM-5PM. 805/682-3044.

## MAR. 16-17

**IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL** San Diego Chapter 119 28th Annual Flower & Cultural Arts Show. Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 11AM-4PM. Free.

## MAR. 19 - APR. 2 - APR. 9

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Series-Flower Arranging Classes. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Velma West, Instructor. Bring Materials. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Pre-registration 232-5762. For series \$35.

## MAR. 30-31

**EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY** 18th Show and Sale. Many unusuals. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

## APR. 6-7

**SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY** 68th Rose Show & Sale Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 235-0004, Fee.

## APR. 6-7

**SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY** 22nd Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

## APR. 13

**SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN** Wildflower Festival, Plant & Book Sale. 1212 Mission Canyon Road. Sat. 9AM-4PM. \$3 fee.

## APR. 13-14

**AKIKO BOURLAND** "21st Century Ikebana Concepts" Show. Handlery Hotel, Hotel Circle. Sat. 11AM-7PM; Sun. 10AM-5PM. Donation \$3. Free Parking. Call 276-4667.

## APR. 13-14

**RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB**  
Flower Show & Plant Sale "Travels in Europe" Corner of La Granada & Avenida de Acacias. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM. 756-3466. Free.

## APR. 13-14

**FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB** 65th Annual Flower Show & Plant Sale. 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Sat. 2-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

## APR. 13-14

**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION** Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. Noon-5PM; Sun. 9AM-4PM. 310/544-1948. Entrance fee.

## APR. 16

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Quarterly Dinner Meeting/Program. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. "Birds & Butterflies in the Garden" Don Everett. 5:45PM. RSVP please 232-5762. Cost \$5 & \$6.

## APR. 16

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Art Alive Design Workshop. Casa del Prado, Rm 104, Balboa Park. Bring Materials & Lunch. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762.

## APR. 18-19-20-21

**THE HUNTINGTON, San Marino & DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada-Flintridge,** 6th International Heritage Rose Conference. Hours 9AM-5PM. 818/405-2164. Series fees.

## APR. 19

**LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB, INC.** Spring Gardens on Tour. Fri. 10AM-3PM. Benefits CA Nativescapes Garden, Wild Animal Park. Call 487-2629. \$5.

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VOLUME 87

NUMBER 2

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MARCH-APRIL 1996

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COVER by Ilse Scheer appears to be of wild species rose.

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**APR. 20-21**

**CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** 71st Spring Flower Show. "Festival of Flowers". Spreckels Park, Coronado. Sat. 1-5:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Gate fee \$2.

**APR. 20-21**

**SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY** 31st Show & Sale Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Pk. Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM.

**APR. 20-21**

**ENCINITAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** Annual Nursery Tours. Reservations required by April 12. Call 619/633-4802. \$12.50.

**APR. 25-28**

**ART ALIVE** 15th Annual Art & Floral Design. S.D. Museum of Art, Balboa Pk. Floral Designs & Lectures. Thurs. 11AM-4:30PM; Fri./Sat./Sun. 9AM-4:30PM. Admission fee for non-members.

**APR. 27**

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION, INC.** Tour of Floriade IV. Banning Residence Museum, Wilmington. \$45 & \$48. 232-5762.

**APR. 27-28**

**SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB** 31st Spring Show, Demonstration & Prizes. Casa del Prado, Rm 101, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM.

**APR. 27-28**

**THE FRIENDS OF THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM** Garden Show. 1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton. Sat. 9AM-4PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 714/773-3404. \$5.

**APR. 27-28**

**DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB** 16th Standard Flower Show. Valley Center Middle School, 28102 N. Lake Wohlford Rd. Valley Center. Sat. 1:30-5:30PM; Sun. Noon-4PM. Free.

**APR. 28**

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** Epiphyllum Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sun. 9AM-4PM. 310/544-1948. Fee \$3 - \$5.

**Weekly**

**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun. 10AM-4PM. Gate donation. Free 3rd. Tuesday.

**Every Saturday**

**OFFSHOOT TOURS** One-Hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park. 10AM. Botanical Lath House. Rain or less than 4 people cancels. 1st Sat. History Walk; 2nd Sat. Palm Walk; 3rd Sat. Tree Walk; 4th Sat. Desert Walk; 5th Sat. Tour del Dia.

**Every Tuesday**

**BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS**

Ranger guided tours of Botanical History of Park. Meet Balboa Park Visitor Center, Plaza de Panama. 10AM. Call 619/235-1121. Free.

**Monthly**

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Speaker. Satellite Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Call 630-7307.

**Through May 96**

**PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM** Floral Design Programs. 1st Mon. 1-3PM. Rancho Bernardo. Call 749-1920. Fee.

**Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for May/June issue is Mar. 15. SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.**

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**. . . about Suckers and Basal Shoots**  
by Marianne Truby

**A "SUCKER" IS UNWANTED!**

It is a shoot that comes up from the understock below the bud union. The bud union is the swollen stem section at the soil level where the top variety was grafted to the rootstock. A sucker should be removed by digging carefully below the bud union and pulling it off the root. If it cannot be removed by this method, it should be cut off and part of the root taken with it so that no dormant eyes remain. When in doubt about a basal shoot being a sucker, let it grow until it blooms. A sucker will bear different colored blooms from those on the rest of the rosebush. The blooms produced by suckers are usually ugly red blooms. Left alone, these vigorous suckers will take over the budded plant and you will be left with a bush of unwanted red blooms. This is the answer to those who ask, "Why has my rosebush stopped giving me yellow roses and is now producing red blooms?" MINIATURES grow on their own roots and do not sucker.

**A "BASAL SHOOT" IS WANTED!**

It is a new growth that originates at (from) the bud union. Leaves and thorns will be the same as those on existing canes. This vigorous new growth is to be encouraged—in order to produce new wood to replace the old canes at spring pruning time.

After the basal shoot has produced its first bloom, cut back to a strong bud to encourage lateral growth. These base shoots supply the wood that is so essential for good roses and for the longevity of the plant. Particular attention should be given to their care. This is an important phase of successful rose growing. □

# A STROLL IN THE PARK

by PATT SIGG

THE HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT at the San Diego Wild Animal Park is proud of the many specialty gardens located mostly within the Kupanda Falls Botanical Center. In the heart of the Park, however, is the newest of these gardens, the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation Water Wise Garden, sponsored by the San Diego County Xeriscape Council and funded by the Foundation. The garden was designed to use irrigation most efficiently. Plants are placed in zones with like water requirements. Volunteers planted and maintain the educational garden.

The charming and fragrant Herb Garden resides peacefully nearby the cheetah enclosure. Over four hundred different varieties of herbs are planted in the compact, well-labeled garden. Some herbs could be grown for flavoring food, while others are excellent insect repellents. Many of the herbs could be used in sachets and potpourri and still others might be grown just because they are beautiful and attract birds and butterflies. On the first Saturday of each month, year-round, an educational guided walk through this garden is offered at 10:00AM.

From the Herb Garden, the Kilimanjaro Trail passes through the original native garden where Torrey pines have matured gracefully and California ironwood, incense cedar and Monterey cypress trees grow in a natural setting. Continuing along the trail, take time to wander through the sunken Protea Garden. Back on the trail you will enter the Nicholas T. Mirov Conifer Arboretum with fifteen hundred specimens including not only pines but cypresses, cedars, sequoias, and some rare trees as well.

Presently the sound of flowing water will announce your arrival at Kupanda Falls Botanical Center. An inviting path meanders along the rippling stream and to the left you will notice three lath houses.

Members of the San Diego Epiphyllum Society have volunteered their time, labor, and funds to build the "Epi" House where one thousand epiphyllum plants have been donated to the collection. During May and June these plants are in full flower and the display is nothing short of spectacular.

On up the hill a few yards, the Japanese ceremonial gateway welcomes visitors to the Bonsai Pavilion. Inside, informational plaques describe the art of bonsai, use of tools for pruning and shaping, and several bonsai types. This collection is the largest display in the western US.

A bit further, you will find a closed gate inviting you to enter. The gate became necessary when wild local deer found fuchsias inside to be very tasty. A small stream runs through the shaded Fuchsia House where two thousand plants enjoy humidity the stream provides.

Across the road, Kupanda Falls spews energetically

from its rocky origin to form another stream. This is recycled as water conservation is a policy of the Park.

Still further up the black top road is another newly developed and unique collection of plants—the Old World Succulent Garden. Old World succulents consist of aloes, jade trees, ice plants, euphorbias, and many, many more. Colorful, exotic blooms appear on strange and wondrous and sometimes grotesque plant forms.

Looking east, on the horizon, boojum trees loom to announce the massive collection of plants native to Baja California. Cared for by members of the San Diego and Palomar Cactus and Succulent Societies, this garden is the finest collection of Baja California plants outside Baja.

Last, but not least, is the California Nativescapes Botanical Garden. Created by the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club, Southern California natives are grouped by plant community. A booklet containing information about most of the plants in the garden is being prepared.

Guided tours are planned for the second Saturday of March, April and May at 10:00AM when the garden is full of life after the winter rains. The Horticulture Department and the volunteers invite visitors to enjoy all the gardens and tours, which are free with Park admission. □

*PATT SIGG is project coordinator for California Nativescapes Botanical Garden, edits the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club newsletter, and heads the Club's Spring Gardens on Tour fund-raiser.*

## References:

Sigg, Eric. *Public Gardens of California: A Visitor's Guide*. (see page 56)

The San Diego Wild Animal Park Horticulture Department, and the Botanical Gardens newsletter, "Kupanda Mazungumzo."

*Guided tours at California Nativescapes Botanical Garden at San Diego Wild Animal Park take place at 10:00AM the second Saturday of March, April, and May.*





# SELECTION, PLANTING, PRUNING, AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES

by CYNTHIA DRAKE

## Selecting the Tree

With any tree you select for planting consider the following points:

1. Choose a tree that is best for the location.
2. Consider the eventual height and width the tree will require. Properly space the trees to allow for maximum health growth.
3. Consider the maintenance of the tree; pruning and pest control treatments.
4. At the nursery, select a tree without girdling roots or one that is root bound. Where possible, ask to see the root ball. Examine the trunk for cracks, tears, bends, or staking damage. Ask about the pest control treatments and fertilizer applications the tree has had. Choose trees that have been properly pruned. Avoid trees that are a "bargain" price.

5. Deliver the tree as safely as possible to the planting site. Avoid wind damage, shaking, and bruising of the bark.

## Planting the tree

1. Prepare the planting hole by digging it wider than it is deep. The hole should be deep enough to allow for the root ball to sit flush with the existing soil line. Make sure that the hole drains well.

2. Amend the backfill mix with 1/3 planting compost. Add a small amount of preplant fertilizer such as 15-15-15.

3. Vertical air shafts can be added using perforated drain pipes with caps.

4. Carefully place the root ball in the hole. Gently backfill the sides, irrigating halfway through the operation to eliminate air pockets. Complete the planting operation, tamping lightly as you go. Make sure that the tree is thoroughly irrigated, and that a well is left.

## Pruning

1. Don't prune a newly planted tree unless you have a wayward or broken branch. The more you leave on, the quicker the tree is going to grow.

2. The first five years prune to correct growth, shape, and lightly thin.

3. Prune branches to the branch bark ridge, and never flush cut.

## Maintenance

1. Once the tree is planted, readjust the staking to allow for trunk movement.

2. Readjust the ties and stakes once a month until they can be removed.

3. Fertilizer applications should be done only as

needed. Soil tests are your best monitoring tool. Yearly or twice yearly applications of a balanced fertilizer are enough. Apply in the drip line area, not at the base of the tree. Foliar feeding is effective once the tree is fully foliated.

# CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE AND LONDON PLANE TREES

by CYNTHIA DRAKE

THIS MAJESTIC LARGE deciduous shade tree is a favorite choice of landscape architects and the public. The California sycamore is native to the western seaboard, and can be found growing as far east as Texas. Sycamores are riparian trees (living adjacent to water). The tree may reach a height of 80-100 feet in height, and has a strong decurrent (with leaves having a base that extends downward along the stem) growth habit. The branching habit is typically erratic with massive lateral branches starting low on the trunk. It is not uncommon to have several heavily buttressed trunks on one tree. The leaves are 3-5 lobed with coarse teeth on the edge, bright green on the upper surface, and white felted underneath. Due to the round seed balls that hang on the tree in pairs, this tree is often called buttonwood. The sycamore is not used commercially due to the lack of resistance in the wood to decay.

Some of the positive points in using a sycamore for urban plantings are the beautiful white exfoliating colorful bark, unusual branching pattern, drought tolerance, and the ability of the roots to withstand excessive moisture and low oxygen levels in the soil.

Unfortunately, California sycamores are plagued with occasional branch and trunk failure making them a moderately hazardous tree. The major complaint with this tree is the pest problem.

The common names "sycamore or London plane" tree can be confusing. The following trees are available locally:

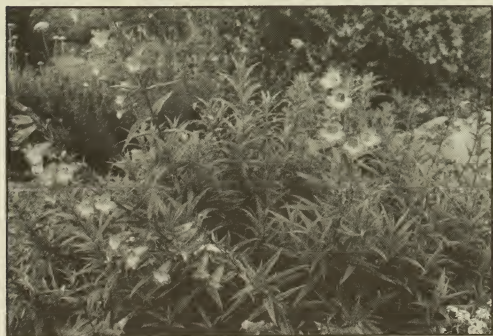
*Platanus racemosa* California sycamore 2-4 seed balls  
*Platanus occidentalis* American sycamore single seed ball  
*Platanus orientalis* European sycamore 2-4 seed balls  
*Platanus xacerifolia* London plane tree 2-4 seed balls  
(continued on page 55)

# IT'S SPRING! GO VISITING

by Betty Newton



Proteas, ice plant, yellow encelia daisies, and wild lilac bloom in the Self-Realization Fellowship garden in Encinitas.



Judy Wigand's nursery began with her great success propagating penstemon cuttings.

IT IS TIME to be out and visiting gardens. No one has invited you to visit this spring? Here are three which are not on scheduled garden tours, yet very worth walking through while they are in full bloom. The rains, as well as the gardeners' care, have brought beauty.

At the SELF-REALIZATION FELLOWSHIP (215 W. "K," off First St. [101 Hwy.] in Encinitas) above the ocean, see the drought-resistant section at the top. There wild lilac, brilliant ice plant, and flowering native plants bloom between graceful, curving paths. You'll enjoy the lower shady section, too, with its intense spots of flower color and cool, green areas with secluded benches, all beneath old Australian tea trees and juniper.

Well worth your time, in San Marcos, are two garden nurseries, side by side. At 418 Buena Creek Road, open Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00AM to 5:00pm, see the dry garden, only a few years old, on a high shelf of granite at BUENA CREEK GARDENS. There the contrast of dark blue, yellow, and red flowering shrubs is brilliant. The plants here reflect a knowledge of Australian plants beyond the norm. Steve Brigham (co-manager with Mary McBride) worked as a young man at UC Santa Cruz Botanic Garden, which has a famed collection of new-to-us Mediterranean-climate plants.

Next door, at 436 Buena Creek Road, is Judy Wigands's nursery, JUDY'S PERENNIALS. In April it is full of blooming penstemon, alstroemeria, perennials you never heard of, and lovely old-fashioned roses. Both front and back gardens offer more delight than we have a right to expect. It is open 10:00AM-4:00PM, Wednesday through Friday, and first and third Saturdays. □

Photographs by the author.



Seen at Cordon Bleu Farms, site of Buena Creek Gardens, are a couple of acres of daylily hybrids grown for the mail-order trade. On a plateau above is a drought-resistant garden of Australian and South African plants.

# AVOCADOS

by BARBARA S. JONES

ANYONE CAN GROW AN avocado in San Diego. So if you get inspired the next time you have one of those beautiful seeds left after eating the avocado, here's how to start it in water in your house.

- (1) Wash the seed in tepid water. Be sure to remove all the pulp.
- (2) Drive three toothpicks, evenly spaced, into the seed about halfway between the broad and the pointed end.
- (3) Suspend seed in a water-filled jar, broad end down, so that about 1/2 inch of the seed is covered with water. Water must be kept at this level—don't let it dry out.
- (4) Place the jar in a warm place out of direct sunlight.
- (5) Wait, be patient. A mature seed should begin to sprout within two to six weeks. A crack will form when it is ready to start spouting.
- (6) When the main stem reaches a height of about 6 inches, it can be cut back midway between the top and the bottom. This will prevent it from producing one straight, spindly stalk.
- (7) When the roots that extend into the water are thick and the stem has several leaves, the plant can be potted. Use a pot with at least a 10-inch top diameter and good drainage. The avocado prefers a soil with lots of humus. Be careful, do not injure the roots. Place soil in the pot. (You will have to judge the depth because the seed should be half exposed.) Spread the roots out and gently add the soil to the proper level. Do not tamp down the soil. Gently pour the water from the jar over the dirt.
- (8) Place the pot in a spot where it will receive several hours of sunlight or artificial light every day. Be sure it is in an area that will not be too cold—never below 36°F.
- (9) Always water with tepid water and be careful to not overwater. Feed with a balanced liquid plant food a week after planting and then only every two to three months.
- (10) When the plant is about 15 inches tall, place a dowel in the pot and attach it to the stem for support.

This makes an attractive house plant. I've never gotten fruit on mine until I planted it out into the garden. Then the fruit that developed was small, thin, and seedless, but tasty. Others have had bigger and plumper fruit when they transplanted into the open ground.

## GROWING AVOCADOS IN SAN DIEGO

By May 1912, San Diegans were interested enough in growing avocados that F. W. Popeno, who grew and sold

them in his nursery in Altadena, wrote an article in *California Garden*, "Avocados for Home Gardens." In explaining why they are good for home gardens he states:

The avocado offers exceptional attractions, for experience in and around Los Angeles has not only shown that it will withstand more neglect than any fruit, but will at the same time keep up a good appearance and be of great value as an ornamental tree...Although remarkably tolerant of abuse, naturally the best results can only be obtained when good care is given. Many trees in Los Angeles gardens are producing abundantly, with the ground around them like asphalt, and never having seen any cultivation or fertilization since the tree was planted. But those who systematically irrigate and manure their avocados are amply repaid by a bountiful harvest and fruit of better size and quality.

He goes on to explain that it has a high food value and can replace beefsteak or beans in the diet.

An advantage held by the avocado and possessed by few other fruits is that by a proper selection of varieties, fruit may be had throughout the entire year. After maturity, avocados of most varieties can be left on the tree for two or three months, improving in quality up to the moment they are picked. Thus by planting a tree of a fall bearing variety fruit can be had from October, when it first commences to ripen, until January or February. And with a spring-bearing variety the crop will last from March until June or July. Thus two trees will supply fruit for a greater portion of the year, and by extending the number to four or five it will be easy to have avocados on one's table every day in the year. It is doubtful if this would be possible in tropical countries, but in California's favorable climate it has been proven to be a fact.

In his December 1913 ad in *California Garden* he offered budded trees of Taft, Dickey #2, Meserve, Queretaro and El Fuerte - all large fruiting. Today the only one of these varieties commonly available is the Fuerte.

In the December 1912 *California Garden* in a small follow-up article he stated: "A fair-sized avocado is said to make a meal for one person, and is easily digested, wholesome, of highly nutritive value and a builder of blood, bone and muscle." By 1916 there were enough commercial growers of avocados that the California Avocado Association had been formed and was having

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# EPIDENDRUM CULTURE

by PAUL BRECHT

REED-STEM *EPIDENDRUM* orchids, once established in containers or in garden beds, bloom all year in the frost-free areas of Southern California. In frost areas, container growing is the answer. They can then be moved into protective areas when there is a frost threat. They are tough plants, but temperatures below 28°F can spell their untimely end.

The plants will bloom more abundantly if grown in almost full sunlight. The growth habit stays shorter and more compact. Look at the leaves for an indication of sun exposure. The foliage should be yellow green in color. When they get too much sun, the leaves turn bright red and may burn.

Plants of this genus are epiphytic, but do very well in a cymbidium-type of loose soil mix. Half bark mixed with half all-purpose potting mix works well. Try to keep these plants moist but not wet and soggy. They like good drainage and aeration. Feed whenever you feed most of your garden plants or every other watering.

*Epidendrum* flowers on new growth, so to keep flowers coming year around, prune the flowering stems or growths as soon as they finish flowering. Cut back to two nodes or about four inches from the ground. This will make nice compact plants with many flowering stems. Pick seed pods off as well as any little plantlets that may develop along the stem. The reed-stem *Epidendrum* is propagated easily by making cuttings of two or three nodes and inserting them into rooting mix. Grow them in areas where they have good air circulation and sunlight. Otherwise, when the weather is cold and damp, bacteria may spot the foliage. If this does happen, simply spray with any recommended fungicide.

Sometimes they can get too tall and leggy and lose some of their attractiveness. Therefore, consider using the *Epidendrum* in mass plantings, mingled with ferns, and this will hide their unsightly bottoms.

Reed-stemmed types are often referred to as

"Hawaiian Weeds." However, when you view their small, but showy clusters of flowers in a rainbow array of red, orange, gold salmon, rose, deep lavender, blush white, and white always blooming with hardly any care, I'm sure that you will find them very rewarding for any nice sunny spot.

The cut stems of *Epidendrum* flowers are beautiful in tall vases with several inches of water in the bottom. They need to be in full sunlight when displayed in the home and will last for many days. They are excellent for outdoor entertaining.

The reed-stem *Epidendrum* flower stems, when used in bouquets, never last very long and the flowers fold and drop because they do not have bright sunlight. Effort needs to be made to place bouquets in the home where they have full sunlight.

The heads of flowers make beautiful corsages. You have a choice of a rainbow of colors. Corsages are used just for an occasion so there would not be a long time element to worry about.

The reed-stem *Epidendrum* has not been too popular as a greenhouse plant, except where it gets a lot of

direct sunlight. Most greenhouses are too heavily shaded.

To locate reed-stems, some species to look for are *E. ibaguense* (*E. radicans*), and *E. obrienianum*. There are names such as Snow White, Lavender Queen, California Sunset, Canary, and Old Rose. Two crosses are *Epicattleya* Nebo (lavender with white lip) and *Epicattleya* Orpetii (deep purple). It is a very rewarding hobby to collect reed-stem *Epidendrum*. □

Paul Brecht has a horticulture degree from a state university in North Dakota and has done orchid research work at University of Ohio, Columbus. He was employed at Rod McLellan Company, commercial growers, before he established his Paul Brecht Orchid Company in Costa Mesa in 1962. see page 56



*Epidendrum radicans* photo by the author.

# LAMB'S QUARTERS (*CHENOPODIUM ALBUM*)

WRITTEN and ILLUSTRATED  
by VALERIE ALMOND

WILD EDIBLES

PIGWEEED FAMILY (*Chenopodiaceae*)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: wild spinach, goosefoot, pigweed

HABITAT: Throughout North America in gardens and disturbed soils.

FLOWERING SEASON: June-October, best eaten in spring and summer.

DESCRIPTION: Long, stalky plant bearing distinctive pointed leaves that are covered by a whitish and silverish colored substance (more so on the underpart of the leaves). In the summer, the top of the stalk carries clusters of dark-colored seeds. Lamb's quarters stand between 2-7 feet in height.

## EDIBLE PARTS:

- 1) Young leaves
- 2) Stems
- 3) Seeds

## PREPARATION:

YOUNG LEAVES can be eaten raw (as in a salad), or cooked like spinach. They can be topped with vinegar as spinach would be or seasoned with any of the following:

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Allspice | Marjoram    |
| Basil    | Nutmeg      |
| Chives   | Oregano     |
| Curry    | Rosemary    |
| Mace     | Sesame Seed |

Cook the leaves at least twenty minutes. New leaves at the top of the plant can be picked and eaten throughout summer. The flavor is a bit sweeter than spinach. The leaves freeze well, so you can pick them and save them for later use.

STEMS are prepared with the leaves and served as above.

SEEDS are harvested by rubbing them between the hands over a sack or container. They can be ground into a flour (the taste is similar to buckwheat). The seeds also can be boiled for a mush. They are especially good combined with wheat flour and cornmeal for baking. Boil the whole seeds until they are soft and they will make a very nourishing breakfast cereal; sprinkle with a dash of cinnamon and sugar, or eat it as it is. The seeds can be



sprinkled over casseroles, fish, or omelets. Store the unused seeds in an airtight jar.

VITAMIN/MINERAL CONTENT: The average adult needs 5,000 international units of vitamin A daily; one-half cup of lamb's quarters contains 14,000 to 16,000 units of this vitamin. The average adult needs 70 milligrams of vitamin C daily; ½ cup of lamb's quarters has 66 to 130 milligrams of this vitamin. One-half cup of lamb's quarters offers at least one-third of the calcium an adult needs daily. The leaves are a good source of vitamins A and C, calcium, riboflavin, niacin, and thiamine.

MEDICINAL USES: Leaves can be simmered and applied to swelling. Lamb's quarters tea (boiling, then simmering the leaves) has been used internally for arthritis, rheumatism, and stomach pain. Leaves have been held in mouth for toothache. The liquid from boiled leaves is a good mouthwash and rinse because the calcium helps the teeth nutritionally.

MISC. USES: The roots (fresh) can be crushed and made into a soap substitute.

PAST HISTORY USES: Indians held the leaves in the mouth for a toothache. They placed simmered leaves on the forehead for a headache.

WILDLIFE USES: Game birds, sparrows, finches, deer, elk, moose, as well as smaller animals feast on the plant. □

*Valerie Almond is an illustrator who has done pet portraits, wildlife illustrating, signs, logos, business card designing, and other artwork. see page 56*

# ABOUT MINIATURE ROSES

by MARIANNE TRUBY

MINIATURE ROSES, AS MOST of us are aware, are named for the size of their blooms. Although some miniatures can grow quite large, most are much smaller than hybrid teas. Some varieties are very vigorous and have been known to ramble or climb. What is important is that you should explore the many ways they may be used. Don't let the name keep you from growing and enjoying the many types and varieties available today. Miniature roses exhibit blooms of every size and shape. Some miniatures produce blooms with exhibition hybrid tea form while others are considered to be decorative (lacking the tightly spiraled center). Micro-miniatures are very small plants that have very small blooms. Miniature roses come in almost every color imaginable. There truly is a color for everyone. The only colors not available are blue and black. Every shade, from the purest white to the (almost) black-red can be had in a miniature.

You may have thought miniatures are difficult to grow. All roses do take some care, they do not thrive on neglect. (Few things do). Miniature roses are sturdy and MEANT TO BE GROWN

OUTDOORS, they are not house plants! They make ideal potted plants and will be happy in patio locations.

Micro-Minis, largely created as a result of hybridization using miniature roses, are exquisite and arrangers use them to create miniature arrangements that are wonderful! Because of their petite size they are hard to market but most micros are tough little plants that require less fertilizer than their larger counterparts.

Most miniature roses are grown on their own roots. They adapt well to containers. Everyone has space for miniatures. Because of their compactness, miniatures have an advantage where space is minimal. They can be very useful in a small garden. Miniature roses can make a very attractive border planting in front of other roses or

interplanted. They help screen what are often the unattractive lower canes of full-sized roses. Since I have planted my miniatures in the ground and treated them the same as my full-sized roses, I have found them truly enjoyable.

**PRUNING:** Miniature rose plants can be kept small by pruning them. They are pruned the same as other roses (if they are in the ground you will be on your hands and knees). When growing in pots, the size of the pots will help determine the size of the bush. The advantage of small pots is that you can move them on whim, to protect them from hot sun or wind, and to control bloom cycles.

**PLANTING MEDIUM:** a mixture of Supersoil potting soil mixed with 25% Gromulch will help your minis thrive. When feeding miniatures it is especially important to make sure they are well watered the day before. They like a liquid diet and lots of organics. Fish emulsion used at the rate of one tablespoon per gallon of water is ideal.

Spider mite can defoliate your miniatures within a few days and may even kill them if allowed. The best solution is to wash your bushes with a strong stream of

water several times a week. During extreme warm weather daily washing will not be excessive. Consistent attention will result in truly rewarding minis.

Ralph Moore of Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, California is considered not only the daddy of the miniature rose, but also somewhat of a genius when it comes to creating new miniature-type roses. He has been a visionary hybridizer and a tireless advocate for miniatures, working to gain acceptance of them where others failed to see their usefulness and potential. I understand that currently he is working with "old roses" to produce miniature-like shrubs, fragrant and easy-care.

Every year many new varieties become available. Some proven varieties are:



'Magic Carrousel', pink blend



WHITE, 'Irresistible', one of the best whites. A prolific bloomer on a plant that can get very tall.

YELLOW, 'Fairhope', the "Mini of the '90s," perfectly-formed blooms, pale yellow to white. Long sturdy stems, lush foliage, currently highest rated mini in Southern California.

APRICOT, 'Jean Kenneally', fragrant, long stems on tall-growing plant.

ORANGE, 'CheerUp', growing in the ground this has been known to be 5 feet tall.

RED, 'Beauty Secret', still my favorite red.

PINK BLEND, 'Magic Carrousel', another "oldie" but a great plant with profuse bloom.

ORANGE-BLEND, 'Hot Tamale', perfect form and very colorful, well-named and new in 1994.

## HAZARDS OF WORKING WITH BARE-ROOT PLANTS

by BETTY NEWTON

YES, WE SAVE a few dollars buying and planting bare-root roses in January and February. But you may decide to buy roses with roots already developed in 3- to 5-gallon nursery containers after reading what I've seen.

Most bare-root roses are NOT harvested carefully and lovingly. Quite the opposite. The majority of bare-root roses are sold in grocery stores, discount garden centers, and nurseries that don't have time or patience to fuss. Thousands upon thousands of bare-root roses are sold in four-inch wide plastic sleeves.

There the roots sit in moist wood shavings. Good. But they were harvested from the ground *by machine* and their roots often were severed *three inches below the plant!* (That's six inches below the bud union.) Surely you have noticed, on opening a bareroot package, those abortive, truncated stubs that are the roots!

Your goal as a gardener is to get a healthy rosebush. You are on your way to success when your bush, whether bare root or growing in a nursery can, puts out new white roots. The more roots you start with, the more white roots develop to support your new plant. Your rose will be healthy if those roots continue to grow for they will supply the three canes above ground with nutrients and water.

Bless those nurseries that put up with the aggravation of carrying roses harvested with 8- to 12-inch roots. I find those roses start much faster and make healthy bushes sooner. Local nurseries with these prime bareroots include Cedros Gardens in Solana Beach, Tropic World in Escondido, Andersen's in San Diego, and Kniffing's (long in Spring Valley, now in El Cajon). Mail-ordered roses also arrive with *long* bare roots.

Customers make it harder for nurseries to keep bare-root roses salable when they pull out plants to inspect the roots and then do not rebury them completely when they decide to buy a different one. There are two other problems with bare-root roses.

Under inexperienced store managers, bareroot stock may be left in dark, heated places. Bad. Warmth causes the canes to sprout prematurely. Darkness makes the plants' new branches' leaves stretch and grow weak. Skip such prematurely sprouted plants; you know not to buy them. But if two inches of leaves develop in a cold nursery yard, and you intend to plant immediately, those are reasonably safe to buy.

Another enemy of roses with no soil on their roots is dry air. The problem gets serious *after* you plant. There are your rose's little canes, standing bare above ground (the roots, stubbed off or long, nestled cozily below the



'Party Girl', yellow blend

The following suppliers specialize in miniature roses. Upon request a free catalog will be sent to you.

Nor'East Miniature Roses, 955 W. Phillips, Ontario, CA 91762-0473.

Pixie Treasures, 4121 Prospect Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92686-1712

Sequoia Nursery, 2519 E. Noble Ave., Visalia, CA 93292-3249

Tiny Petals Nursery, 489 Minot Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91910-4899□

*Marianne Truby is an ARS consulting rosarian and judge, past president of the San Diego Rose Society, past director of the Pacific Southwest District, and president of SDFA. Photographs by the author.*

surface). The sun shines and a little wind blows. There are no roots yet to send up water. The canes, once fat, perhaps even lightly coated in wax, gradually shrivel and dry out.

*Don't let it reach that stage.* Whereas it is often recommended that the gardener mound soil over the canes to keep them plump, you will find it takes a tremendous mound of soil to cover 16- to 18-inch canes. Instead, since your goal is to retain moisture and prevent dehydration, you can cover the bare-root plant with a brown paper bag and keep that damp. Carefully rip it off after the plant is well sprouted. Or, instead, you can mist the canes a couple of times a day, but that is not as effective.

It takes love and attention to bring roses from bare root into healthy plants. □

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes for Grossmont Adult School and writes for the Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune.

## VINES AND VINE-LIKE PLANTS

by MARC BELL

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT climbers (vines and vine-like plants) recreate the appeal of a jungle or forest. The way they grow, generally due to lack of ground space, is routinely stretching up and over walls, fences or anything they can get a hold on, sometimes overtaking a neighboring host.

Climbers in the wild have adapted resourceful attaching devices to reach and compete for light and air. The essence of vines is their adaptation with twining, both clockwise and counter clockwise, coiling, hooking, pads, thorns, tendrils, rigid branches, and, least of all, flopping.

Some vines commonly viewed in Southern California landscapes are: *Parthenocissus* (Boston ivy), *Hedera* (ivy), *Trachelospermum jasminoides* (star jasmine), *Macfadyena unguis-cati* (cat's claw), *Distictis* (red or purple trumpet vine), various species of the *Pandorea*, *Pyrostegia* (flame vine), *Stigmaphyllon* (orchid vine), *Hoya*, *Ipomoea* (morning glory), *Thunbergia*, and *Ficus repens* (creeping fig).

Placement for vines in a garden should include proper spacing with long term thought of a vine's volume in mind, and how the plant's growth will need support. Most vines are not too particular about soil or fertilization once established. Most will grow in bright light to full sun.

### Vine Origins:

- East Asia has given us *Campsis* (trumpet creeper),

*Clematis*, *Actinidia* (kiwi species), climbing hydrangea, *Wisteria*, and the Vitaceae.

- South America offers us *Mandevilla* (*Dipladenia*), *Lapageria* (Chilean bellflower), *Philodendron*, and *Passiflora*.
- Australia and New Zealand sent *Sollya* (Australian blue bells), *Kennedia*, *Hibbertia*, and *Hardenbergia*.
- Burma has contributed *Lonicera hildebrandiana*, and *Rosa gigantea*; both having exceptional blooms.
- Southern California and Baja vines (with drought tolerance in mind) include *Antigonon leptopus*, *Podranea riscaloliana*, and *Polygonum aubertii*.

A list of all vines useful to Southern California is too broad to be included in this writing, yet can readily be sought and researched in numerous gardening books. Recommended reading is *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Climbing Plants* by Enrico Banfi and Francesca Consolino.

Marc Bell, a horticulturist who owns Botanical Design, works with both interior and exterior landscaping. He is an active member of the San Diego Horticultural Society. see page 56



*Clematis viticella* drawing by Jeanie Foord

# OLD GARDEN ROSES (Part IV)

by DUSTY CRAIG

THE FOLLOWING IS A partial listing of the old garden roses grown in my Poway garden. The reference to "Dowager" or "Victorian" class refers to showing them in American Rose Society sanctioned rose shows. Dowagers are varieties introduced before 1867; Victorians between 1867 and 1930. The year of introduction of the first hybrid tea, 'La France,' was 1867.



'Sombreuil' climbing tea, 1850

'ROSA SOULIENA': Species, 1896, Victorian class. To about 25 feet. Give it space, and it will use it well. Tiny, dainty light green foliage is disease free. Prodigious thorns allow it to climb at will into anything and everything. In the late spring, fountains of tiny, single white blooms with a heavy fragrance cover the plant, with clusters numbering in the hundreds of blooms. After the big spring show, occasional blooms may occur in much lesser numbers. Little or no deadwood to remove. Trim longest canes as needed to allow access to gates and doorways. Takes about five seasons to become established. Good crop of hips.

'ROSE DE RESCHT': Damask, date unknown, Victorian class. 4' x 4'. Stiffly upright plant brought from Persia. Very thorny, with deep matte green foliage that will mildew slightly. Very neat plant. The leaves go right up to the base of the flower where they form a neat rosette under the base of the bloom. Flowers are deep, intense magenta, flat and packed with hundreds of strongly fragrant petals. Blooms well all season. Takes about two seasons to become established. Few hips.

'ROSETTE DELIZY': Tea, 1922, Victorian

class. 3' x 3'. One of the outstanding teas for the warmer climes and an outstanding pot subject. The most vivid blooms in the class. Cadmium yellow blooms brushed carmine pink on the outer petals on the nicely shaped, very double flower with a fine tea scent. Somewhat twiggy growth. Olive-green foliage is disease free. Few thorns. Blooms well all season. Takes about three seasons to become established. Few hips.

'SALET': Moss, 1854, Dowager class. 4' x 4'.

A fine repeat blooming rose of the loveliest blend of deep and medium pink. Flat bloom has hundreds of petals, all deliciously scented. As a bonus, the calyx is covered with a "moss" that will leave scent on hands that hold the bloom. Essential for potpourri. Grey-green foliage is disease-resistant but will mildew badly in coastal climes. Very thorny. Upright growth. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended. Takes about four seasons to become established. Some hips.

'SOMBREUIL': Climbing tea, 1850, Dowager class. 18' tall. If 'Felicite Parmentier' is the loveliest bush rose in existence, then 'Sombreuil' is the loveliest climber. Disease-free, dark-green, oval-shaped foliage clothes the slender, thorny canes from bottom to top. The flat blooms are glorious from bud to finish, filled to bursting with ivory silk petals of fine substance that are large and ovoid on the outside, sizing down to slender and oblong in

the center. The fragrance is to die for—true rose scent with undertones of lilac and citrus—one bloom can perfume an entire average-sized room by itself! Intense flush of spring bloom



'Sombreuil', climbing tea, 1850



followed by intermittent all-season bloom is another bonus. Deadwood removal and deadheading recommended, along with light pruning every three seasons of the long, unproductive canes. Blooms will ball and rot in wet weather. Takes about three seasons to establish. Few hips.

**'SUPERB TUSCAN':** Gallica, prior to 1848, Dowager class. 3' x 3'. A civilized member of the otherwise rowdy gallica family, with very upright, slender canes, virtually thornless, that peg well, and have neat, grey-green foliage that is disease free. Very late spring bloom that is non-recurrent. The semi-double blooms are of the deepest, darkest purple, looking like fine, deep velvet. Golden-yellow stamens. Absolutely intense true rose fragrance. Does need good winter chill to bloom, which it doesn't really get in many places here in Southern California. Takes about four seasons to establish. Removal of deadwood recommended. Few hips.

**'WHITE ROSE OF YORK':** Alba, prior to 1597, Dowager class. 12' x 8'. This rose actually dates back before the thirteenth century. Large, spreading, upright plant, with strong and thorny canes. Some mildew of the mid-green foliage is noted. Semi-double blooms of the purest white with golden-yellow stamens and a nice fragrance are non-recurrent for the most part. In mild areas, expect a few blooms after the late spring flush is over. Great privacy screen; can be trained and pegged for maximum coverage and bloom. Good deadwood removal a must. Takes about three seasons to establish. Good hips.

**'YORK AND LANCASTER':** Damask, prior to 1629, Dowager class. 5' x 12'. A big, lax bush that spreads out and climbs everything it can get into. Very thorny and bristly. Soft, bright-green foliage that even the bugs hate. Charming semi-double blooms that are white, pink, or white with a pink petal or two, or pink with a white petal or two, or all of the above. Intensely fragrant. Unbelievable early-spring bloom that lasts nearly two months. Non-recurrent. Pegs well and will climb trees. Deadwood removal yearly an absolute must and can be painful to the pruner. Takes about three seasons to become established. Bountiful crop of hips make great tea. □

*Dusty Craig has been growing roses since moving into the Poway area in 1985. In November of 1994, she became a fully accredited horticultural judge for the American Rose Society. Photographs by Dale Craig. see page 56*



*'White Rose of York', alba, prior to 1597*

## FERTILIZATION: How Much and How Often?

by Mort Brigadier

### NITROGEN

**AMMONIUM SULFATE**, 21-0-0, is suggested as the principal source of nitrogen (N) for San Diego soils. It contains more sulfur (24%) than nitrogen (21%) and leaves a highly acidifying residue that helps neutralize San Diego's alkaline soils. It is also the least expensive source of nitrogen even when applied at the rate of five pounds to equal one pound of actual nitrogen. A general rule of thumb for all fertilizers is that light, sandy soils might benefit from dividing each fertilization into two equal applications.

**Avocado Trees**—Mature avocado trees need about 2 pounds of nitrogen each year. Apply 2.5 pounds of ammonium sulfate, 21-0-0, in February, March, April, and May. Excessive amounts of nitrogen can cause root damage, leaf burn, zinc deficiency, and defoliation. Mature avocado trees may need an occasional application of zinc in January or February if the foliage indicates a deficiency. Do not apply any other fertilizers without cause.

**Citrus**—Apply two pounds of 21-0-0 in February, March, April and May. Young trees need much less nitrogen, and can be injured by too much fertilizer. Reduce to half a pound for adolescent trees. A special caution is: no fertilizer on newly planted trees until the roots are well established. Obtain a copy of UC Leaflet No. 2115, "Micronutrient Deficiency of Citrus," from the UC Cooperative Extension.

**Fruit and Nut Trees**—A general rule of thumb for mature fruit and nut trees is to apply 2.5 pounds of 21-0-0 in March, and 5 pounds of 10-10-10 after harvest. Do not feed new trees the first year. Apply a few ounces of N in the second and third summer provided that the tree has abundant foliage. A caution is that each variety of fruit or nut tree may have its own specific needs, and may not conform to the general rule of thumb. Call the Master Gardener at 694-2860 (9 AM to 3 PM) Monday through Friday, and ask for a catalog of the University of California Farm and Garden publications. There may be a publication covering your specific fruit or nut tree.

**Rare Fruit**—For information concerning rare, exotic or unusual fruit, call the Rare Fruit Growers Association at 453-3321 (city) or 753-6757 (4 PM to 8 PM) (county).

continued on page 52



## Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

### AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen LaGamma

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** only when soil is dry when watering from the top.

**TO KEEP** all areas clear of plant clutter. Use only clean sterile equipment. Have the area well ventilated.

**TO PROVIDE** 12 to 14 hours of indirect lighting daily.

**TO PROTECT** plants from any sudden change in temperature—maintain 65-75°F.

**TO POT UP** babies in 2½-inch pots using a light, porous, sterile soil with good drainage.

**TO PRACTICE** preventive measures against insects and disease—have clean hands and clothing.

### BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PUT** down tubers to sprout.

**TO CLEAN** all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old debris.

**TO PROTECT** roots with a mulch.

**TO START** feeding; give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week, ½ strength if twice a month; full strength if once a month.

**TO CONTROL** disease and pests by spray and bait.

**TO KEEP** plants moist, but not wet.

**TO START** new plants from leaves, cuttings, or seeds.

### BONSAI

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATCH** watering program according to the rains.

**TO GRAFT** deciduous plants.

**TO REPOT** plants; shape to conform to the container.

**TO REMEMBER** deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.

**TO ADD** small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

**TO WATCH** for aphids and other pests.

**TO WAIT** until April to feed. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.

**TO USE** ¼-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only one time. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

### BROMELIADS

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CHECK** plants for scale especially during spring when scale is most likely to appear.

**TO TREAT** plants with scale by dipping or spraying them thoroughly with a solution of Cygon 2E according to directions on the label. Drain excess solution from plant.

**TO KEEP** plants clean. Cut spent blooms and dead leaves.

**TO REPOT** your favorite plants in new potting media. This helps them to develop a healthier growth.

**TO ALWAYS** provide good drainage and never allow the soil to become soggy.

**TO FERTILIZE** only during the warm months, once a month, preferring a fertilizer high in acid. Use ½ the recommended strength on the label.

### CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PREPARE** plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition—transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow freely through it.

**TO FERTILIZE** your plants on a regular basis.

**TO START** acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after danger of frost is gone.

**TO PROTECT** sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.

**TO KEEP** newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease; treat any pest soon,

watch for snails also. The wet winter might bring you rodents; mice and rabbits are cute but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

## **CAMELLIAS**

**E. C. Snooks**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO KEEP** up a proper watering schedule especially if little rain occurs.

**TO FEED** with cotton-seed meal or commercial fertilizer.

**TO KEEP** blooms picked up to control petal blight.

**TO ADD** iron for good leaf color.

**TO TRANSPLANT** older plants or plant new ones.

**TO PRUNE** out any unwanted growth—open the center to allow air circulation.

**TO LOOK** for loopers and aphids—spray with malathion or Cygon.

**TO LOOK** for new varieties while still in bloom.

## **DAHLIAS**

**Abe Janzen**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PLACE** tubers in starting medium such as vermiculite or sand. Keep in a warm place to sprout; beware of too much moisture.

**TO PREPARE** the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer.

**TO PLANT** sprouted tubers, sprout side up, six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil.

**TO MOISTEN**, but do not keep wet.

**TO PROTECT** new growth from snails.

**TO BE SURE** to drive stake into ground before planting tubers.

## **EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)**

**George French**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FEED** epiphyllums with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

**TO CHECK** trellis to be sure plants are well secured.

**TO GIVE** plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.

**TO BAIT** for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.

**TO CHECK** for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom; use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.

**TO TAKE** cuttings.

**TO REMOVE** buds from a new plant; that energy

needs to go to the root system.

## **FERNS**

**Raymond Sodomka**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO FERTILIZE** with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.

**TO REMOVE** dead fronds.

**TO CATCH** rain water for plants in covered areas.

**TO DIVIDE**, repot or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.

**TO SPRAY** for aphids and scale.

**TO PLANT** spores.

**TO USE** vitamin B1 after dividing; use per instructions on label.

## **FUCHSIAS**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PRUNE** plants not done earlier.

**TO PINCH** new growth on plants pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves forms on new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This will result in a bushier plant.

**TO FERTILIZE** with any good balanced fertilizer.

**TO WATCH** for insects and treat accordingly.

**TO WATER** thoroughly the day before spraying.

**TO CONTINUE** taking cuttings from prunings.

**TO CLEAN** up fallen leaves, blooms and other trash.

## **GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium*)**

**Carol Roller**

### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended amount as often as needed to keep the plants growing well. As the soil becomes warmer, long-term pellets may be used.

**TO CONTINUE** pest and disease control, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

**TO PRUNE** ivies and zonals if they have not been pruned. Avoid cutting regals, scented and related types because their flowers will be lost by pruning them at this time.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

**TO ROTATE** pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.



## GREEN THUMB ITEMS

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PLANT** high-moisture plants where fire-retardant plants are needed. Sea fig, commonly planted along freeways, has 60% moisture. Other desirable plants are strawberry tree, carob tree, pineapple guava, pomegranate, oak, oleander, cape honeysuckle, dwarf coyote bush, ice plants and other succulents.

**TO START** feeding houseplants a liquid houseplant food when the growing season begins in March.

**TO CUTBACK** to the basal foliage some herbaceous perennial plants: mums, columbine, coreopsis, some true geraniums, ornamental grasses, evening primrose, many salvias, and Shasta daisies.

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO IRRIGATE** when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of 3 feet.

**TO APPLY** fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.

**TO BEGIN** thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about 1/2" in size. Space fruit 4 to 6 to inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late maturing varieties.

**TO CHECK** trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical which has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin to protect beneficial insects.

**TO KEEP** ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.

**TO SPRAY** apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.

**TO APPLY** sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then, every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

## IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO START** feeding low nitrogen, all-purpose and liquid fish fertilizers.

**TO WATER** regularly if no rain.

**TO CLEAN** beds and keep weeds under control.

**TO WATCH** for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.

**TO GIVE** Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

## NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO ENJOY** your garden at its best.

**TO TAKE** stock of problem areas for next fall's planting.

**TO VISIT** gardens in your area that are planted in natives.

**TO SEE** the beautiful *Ceanothus* display at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden.

**TO TAKE** drives around the back country in order to see what is in bloom and what it looks like.

**TO KILL** snails and slugs before they take over everything.

**TO MAKE** a trip to Anza Borrego to see the wildflowers.

## ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REPOT** *Cattleya* plants that have exceeded their pots and are showing new eyes.

**TO MOVE** *Cymbidium* plants that are in spike to a shadier spot to lessen fading.

**TO PROTECT** *Cymbidium* plants from possible hail and rain.

**TO SET OUT** slug and snail bait, check for red spider, scale and mealybug. Try to keep ants out of your domain: they bring aphids and other pests.

**TO CONTINUE** even fertilizer feeding of *Phalaenopsis*: plants in bloom should be protected from drafts.

**TO GROW** the *Oncidium* alliance, *Odontoglossum*, *Brassia*, etc. with some research. Air movement, light, feeding, and good sodium-free water are some of the requirements for successful growing.

**TO CHECK** air cooler and fans; they may need oil. **TO FLUSH** and reset any water filters or reverse osmosis units.

**TO WATCH** for plants that may get sunburned and protect them.

## ROSES

Marianne Truby

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** deeply to encourage your bushes to

produce strong stems and healthy foliage.

**TO WATER** roses day before feeding or spraying and again after feeding.

**TO VARY** the products used to provide the essential nutrients and micro-nutrients for your roses. Roses require a balanced diet to produce the blooms we grow them for. High nitrogen will produce unusually tall bushes that in many cases appear out of place in our home landscape, and has contributed to too many negative comments about unattractive bushes. Along with the need for organic materials we now recognize that nitrogen alone will seldom produce the quality and quantity of bloom we strive to produce.

**TO VISIT** your roses often to observe and enjoy their growth and revel in the beautiful early foliage.

**TO CHECK** daily for signs of unwanted pests, early signs of nutrition deficiency and/or early weeds and grasses.

**TO CONTROL** aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early a.m. Much has been written about the control of caterpillars by the use of *Bt* (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a non-chemical product. I have not used this material but would be interested in hearing from you that have.

**TO CONTROL** thrip damage to blooms by using Orthinex (available in an atomizer spray) on blooms just as they begin to drop their sepals. Thrips become very active when the local uncared for vegetation dries up because of lack of moisture. Thrips distort the blooms by sucking the moisture from the petals and the bloom fails to open properly.

**TO RECORD** your garden maintenance efforts. Time does fly when you're having fun!

**TO PREPARE** to adjust your schedule to weather conditions. Foggy cool days are certain to encourage mildew in the rose garden and a early heat wave means you must water, water, water. To a limited degree washing off your bushes in the early a.m. will delay mites and even early mildew.

**TO LEARN** rose terminology. Particularly become acquainted with the difference between a sucker and a basal break! A sucker is **unwanted** and a basal break is a beginning to a new cane which is what we are trying to produce so we can cut off the old worn out canes at next year's pruning!

**TO ENJOY** your roses during these months, weather permitting, the months of glory for roses and rosarians.

**TO ATTEND** garden shows and appreciate all the wonderful plant materials that abound in Southern California.

## VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension  
NOW IS THE TIME

**TO PREPARE** soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply twenty pounds of poultry manure or fifty pounds of steer manure per hundred square feet.

**TO MAKE** last planting of cool season vegetables such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi which will mature before hot summer weather arrives.

**TO SET OUT** tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications  
NOW IS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** cabbage and eggplant

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon — ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, torenia, verbena, vinca, and zinnias.

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF RAYMOND SODOMKA AND HERBERT MARKOWITZ

If there was anything to be known about ferns, Ray Sodomka know it. My personal remembrance of Ray was when he came to my house to pick up a huge staghorn fern to install in front of the Administration Building of Quail Gardens. Being an ex-engineer, he had the great forethought to bring four men and a truck. A really great guy!

Dr. Markowitz learned bonsai culture while interned in a Japanese prison camp during WW II. He was a perfect judge for bonsai exhibits at the Del Mar Fair. He was adamant about the pronunciation of bonsai: say "bone-sy"!

Robert D. Horwitz

(“FERTILIZATION” continued from page 47)

**Roses**—Roses are special. Roses (and putting greens) benefit from both organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen. Contact one of the rose societies listed on page 59 of this publication, and ask for rosarian Dick Streeper’s calendar of rose care.

**Trees and Shrubs**—Mature plants need little fertilization if growing well and looking good. If they lose vigor and color because of poor soils, apply ¼ pound of ammonium sulfate in March for each 100 square feet of canopy or ground cover. Apply an additional ¼ pound eight weeks later.

**Annuals, Vegetables and Other Shallow-Rooted Plants**—Annuals, vegetables, and other shallow-rooted plants need ammonium phosphate, 16-20-0, worked into the ground as a pre-plant fertilizer. Use it according to manufacturer’s recommendation. Plants need relatively large amounts of nitrogen during the growing season, but will burn if it is applied too heavily. Apply 1 pound of 21-0-0 per 100 square feet monthly throughout the growing season. Cut back if plants get leggy.

**Lawns**—The instructions on the label of Vigoro’s ammonium sulfate, 21-0-0, may be injurious to the health of your lawn. Over fertilization at any one application will increase growth, maintenance, and disease problems. A rule of thumb is to apply 1 pound of actual N (5 pounds of ammonium sulfate) per 1,000 square feet at any one application. Fertilize when grass is dry and irrigate immediately to avoid fertilizer burn.

**Cool Season Grasses**—Apply 5 pounds ammonium sulfate per 1,000 square feet in March, April, May, and again in November. Avoid fertilizing in the summer.

**Warm Season Grasses**—Apply 5 pounds ammonium sulfate per 1,000 square feet in March, April, May, and again in November. A September application may help delay dormancy.

**House Plants**—Newly purchased plants need no nitrogen for the first two months. A rule of thumb is to use a monthly application (every two months in winter) of a soluble fertilizer according to the package instructions.

In the old days, farmers grew most of their fertilizer by plowing under the crop residue. Many grew nitrogen-fixing legumes especially for this purpose. Animal manures were also a great source of nitrogen. The manure returned to the soil the amount taken to feed the animals minus the amount used by the animals for their own growth. Not too bad an idea today.

## PHOSPHORUS AND POTASSIUM

Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are the P and K of the big three N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) that you’ll find on fertilizer containers. The rule of thumb is to apply when needed. Most authorities suggest adding potassium every fourth year. Nutrient deficiencies cause distinct fruit and leaf symptoms and are easily recognized by any certified nursery person. Correct any nutrient deficiency during the growing season by application of recommended fertilizers—as needed. For micronutrient deficiency, use foliar application of “Citrus Growers Mix,” or similar product containing essential trace elements. Caution: micronutrients are toxic to plants when applied in too large an amount.

## GYPSUM

Gypsum, or calcium sulfate, is not a fertilizer. It is a “wonder drug” for San Diego’s clay soils. Pure gypsum contains 18% sulfur. It binds particles of clay into aggregates and creates porosity for roots, water, and air. Applied at 1 pound per 100 square feet, its sulfur content helps reduce alkalinity.

## DESIGNER FERTILIZERS

Designer fertilizers are a waste of money unless some special need has been identified. You can buy nitrogen for 50 to 75 cents a pound, or spend over a hundred dollars, plus tax, for a pound of “Special-Purpose Name” nitrogen.

All fertilizers add salt to the soil. Use what you need, but don’t overfertilize. Unless the plants tell you otherwise, follow these guidelines for a happy growing season, and a healthy harvest.

*COL Mort Brigadier is a retired army paratrooper. He has an MBA in management and is a UCCE Master Gardener.*

REFERENCES: UCCE Teletip (619/565-5630) numbers

109, 404, 405, 111, 112, 113  
UC Publication numbers 2227, 7036, 21277, 2459, 7040, 7039, 2473, 7038, 21469, 2481, 29951, 2160, 2463, 2024, 21329  
*Western Fertilizer Handbook*  
*Plant Science*, Hudson T. Hartman, et al.  
Cuyamaca College class notes

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### ALL MY EDENS: A Gardener's Memoir

Pat Welsh

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1996, 214 pages, 81 b&w photos, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$24.95

This is a two level book. It is an autobiography by an engaging personality who has an interesting story to tell; and it is a chronicle of gardening done in diverse places, including northern and southern England and both coasts of the United States. Pat Welsh lives in the San Diego area and she is well known to Southern California readers and TV viewers. Some of the material in this book has already appeared in *San Diego Home/Garden* magazine.

The narrative is not chronological—interspersed gleanings from her many Southern California gardening years with tales of her young formative years, a time of richly varied surroundings. She is candid about family affairs and family history, and the text is lavishly illustrated with photographs and letters. Her early years in England and later here in the U.S. were obviously happy, and her recollections blend well with her gardening memoirs.

With long experience came extensive knowledge. From design to ornamentals to garden pests to vegetables this is a wide-ranging book, and it is rich in garden lore. Pat Welsh is a lively and articulate writer. She is a keen observer and she has an impish sense of humor. She relished the environments in which she lived, and her love of nature is deep and sensitive. Now her home and garden in Del Mar have engendered this book. It is welcome.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

### THE ART OF FRENCH VEGETABLE GARDENING

Louisa Jones

New York, Artisan Press, 1995, 195 pages, 175 color photos, 8 1/4" x 11 1/4", hardcover, \$35

Those of us who are lovers of all things French, but most especially the gardens, must give thanks that Louisa Jones moved to the south of France in 1975 and since then has given us wonderful books about the gardens of Provence and the French Riviera as well as the new cuisine of the area. Her latest book gives us a complete overview of the classic French potager (kitchen garden) as well as its historic origins. Ms. Jones goes back to the classic medieval gardens, frequently cloister gardens, which were created in the form of a cross. The garden was divided into four sections, one each for vegetables, fruit,

flowers, and herbs. In the center of the four dividing walkways was a fountain or well. From this formal origin developed the stunning formal bedded gardens of today. An interesting side development came from the English influence which has inspired the creation of many French potagers that look like English cottage gardens, with delightful mixes of flowers and veggies all mixed together in colorful borders.

If I were buying only one book to inspire me to glorious vegetable gardening this would be it. The photos are stunning and the text is worthwhile. At the end of the book there are excellent recipe suggestions and useful lists of companion plants and design ideas for creating your own potager. Have a glass of wine while you enjoy this book.

*Reviewed by Connie Beck*

### HOME LANDSCAPES: Planting Design and Management

Edwin C. Martin, Jr and Pete Melby

Portland, Timber Press, 1994, 332 pages, 192 color photos, 8 3/4" x 11 1/4", hardcover, \$49.95

The authors set out to create a book which combines explanations of design components with the required maintenance and management of those landscapes. The first section of the book does an exceptional job of breaking down all the design elements and explaining how to incorporate them into residential and commercial landscapes. The process of designing is explored, along with the basics of soil, fertilization, pests, and disease control. Unlike many other design books there is a practical correlation between the photos and the instructional text with regard to the individual elements of good design. For instance, the photos demonstrate specific cases where the design was used to create depth, sun and erosion control, separating and enclosing space, using color and texture, and many other aspects of design. In trying to correlate the maintenance requirements, the authors give a paragraph of somewhat vague instructions for pruning, fertilizing and watering, and time requirements for each of these specific designs. This aspect of the book is of negligible value, but does not detract from the overall excellent quality of the book as a whole.

*Reviewed by Connie Beck*

### CREATIVE HERB GARDENING

Geraldene Holt, special photography by Debbie Patterson

Conran Octopus, Distr. by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, Vt., 1995, 96 pages, 50 color photos, 42 color illustrations, 9 1/4" x 10 1/4", hardcover, \$19.95

Here is yet another book about growing herbs. This one is remarkable for its illustrations and for several unusual touches in its design.

Because this is British in origin some parts of the text will be more interesting than useful in California. There is a list of appropriate addresses, but these are all in the British Isles; the author does acknowledge help from friends in some other countries, but only a few of the locations shown in the photographs are identified.

In her introduction Geraldene Holt describes her lifelong interest in growing herbs and in cooking with them. Her enthusiasm is obvious, and her description of the cycle of the seasons in her English garden can generate nostalgia in expatriates. Herb growers will empathize with the last few paragraphs in this section.

There is an excellent Herb Directory, giving information on cultivation and uses for each plant, together with an illustration and a list of recommended varieties. These elegant illustrations are all from early printed books, and though they are listed in the acknowledgements the source details given are brief. The lively color photographs in other parts of the book present a contrast which is not always pleasing. The Herb Directory is labeled alphabetically, but the choice of type faces for each entry is sometimes confusing.

The contents list shows a thorough coverage of this subject. There are two sections each on culinary, scented, and formal gardens, and there is an account of the history of herbs and a guide to propagation. Container gardens and paved gardens are also discussed. The five color diagrams are a clear interpretation of the book. It would be a good addition to any collection of titles on this subject.

Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham

## THE WEEKEND GARDENER

### Montagu Don

North Pomfret, Vt., Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 1995, 192 pages, 125 color photos, 104 color illustrations, 7½" x 10", hardcover, \$35

As stated by the author this book is intended to encourage the garden owner who has a desire to plan and care for his garden with a minimum of time and effort. A thought that is appealing to many of us. It is laid out, calendar style, beginning with January and ending with December projects. Suggesting two hours, two weekends per month as a guide for maintaining a pleasing garden the author does an excellent job of covering the different facets of maintaining and producing a garden to suit individual needs and desires. While the timing of much of the garden work is based on materials and climate of England, I found this material of interest and very readable. He is a self-proclaimed, self-taught gardener and covers a great range of gardening as an enjoyable pastime with the opportunity for each of us to pursue it at our own pace. He rejects the need to be an expert.

Noting that the herbaceous border is the very essence of the English garden, he states that true herbaceous borders are very rare and require a fair amount of work in order to keep them looking their best. What we now see in their place are mixed borders using a combination of shrubs, annuals, biennials, bulbs, and herbaceous plants.

The color photos are excellent and the layout of this work including a complete index is a pleasure to use. Although special interest is achieved by using color blocks, it is done in such a way as to capture your attention and is still readable, unlike too many of today's color publications.

Reviewed by Marianne B. Truby

## ALPINES: The Illustrated Dictionary

### Clive Innes

Portland, Timber Press, 1995, 192 pages, 957 color photos, 8½" x 10½", hardcover, \$39.95

One of the pleasures of picking up a new garden book is expanding not just your knowledge of particular plants but also the way you think about categories of plants. After spending time browsing through more than nine hundred plants included as alpine you will certainly broaden your concept of alpine.

The term has become synonymous with rock garden plants, usually small plants requiring especially good drainage and not necessarily limited to plants from the high mountain ranges of Europe.

Not limiting himself to Europe, Clive Innes includes the Sierra Nevada, San Gabriel, and San Bernardino ranges of California, as well as the mountains of Mexico, South America, South Africa, New Zealand, and Saudi Arabia in his search for alpine. Innes, known for his interest in cacti and succulents, has included a few cacti and many succulents especially from the Crassulaceae (*Crassula*, *Echeveria*, *Sedum*, *Sempervivum*) in this book. More surprising to me were the large number of bulbs from the lily and iris families that are considered alpine. This would be a good reference for anyone wanting to start a rock garden as it is not nearly so limited as most guides nor is it written with colder climates than ours in mind as most rock garden books tend to be. Most plants are small, less than twelve inches, a few are two to three feet, which is the height given for *Acanthus mollis*; so perhaps you need to carefully check the size given as it does cover a wide range.

Reviewed by R. Cox

## MANUAL OF BULBS, John Bryan

446 pages, 84 line drawings, \$49.95

## MANUAL OF CLIMBERS AND WALLPLANTS,

J. K. Burras

304 pages, 55 line drawings, \$39.95

## MANUAL OF GRASSES, Rick Darke

218 pages, 30 line drawings, \$39.95,

Portland, Timber Press, 1995, 6" x 9½", hardcover

This series, called manuals, are taken from the authoritative *New Royal Horticulture Society Dictionary of Gardening*. The original four volume set priced at \$700 was beyond the price range of most individuals. Then a one volume summary limited to very brief descriptions of more than 60,000 plants was published. It's ideal for help in distinguishing between different species of a genus and providing the current proper botanical names. Now these manuals enable one to have the complete information and drawings from the original set at an affordable price. Each Manual has its own Consultant Editor, an expert in the field, and includes botanical description, cultivation, history of the genus, and then details on each species. Each also has its own Glossary, list of names no longer in use, list of popular names, and a Bibliography.

The number of plants included in each Manual is extremely comprehensive. *Climbers and Wallplants* includes perennials, shrubs, bulbs, and cacti. A plant such as *Gloriosa superba* 'Rothschildiana' is included in both *Bulbs* and in *Climbers and Wallplants*. The *Grasses* is especially good, it covers bamboos, sedges, and rushes, as well as the grasses. I would have expected it to include the Restionaceae, a lovely group of rush-like plants which are part of the fynbos of South Africa. The ornamental use of these plants has been developed at Kirstenbosch, the botanical garden of Cape Town, South Africa. Even so, it is the best general coverage on these related families. The line drawings are especially valuable in the *Grasses* and *Bulbs* manuals.

Reviewed by R. Cox

("California Sycamore and London Plane Trees"  
continued from page 38)

The London plane tree is a cross between *P. occidentalis* and *orientalis*. It has a slightly better resistance to foliar diseases than either parent but is more susceptible to scale infestations.

There have been several cultivars that have proven superior for disease resistance. 'Bloodgood' is resistant to anthracnose, and 'Yarwood' is somewhat resistant to powdery mildew. Research is underway to find cultivars that are even more insect and disease resistant.



*Cynthia Drake has twenty years of horticultural experience. She is a California Licensed Pest Control Advisor and Applicator and a Certified Arborist. She is president of Scripps Mesa Garden Club and vice-president of the San Diego Chapter of the California Association of Nurserymen. see page 56*

If there is interest shown, we can publish an article on pest management for sycamores in our next issue.

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# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

## WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

*As some of you know, we are sending out surveys with our renewal notices. Some of our subscribers have been kind enough to send us complimentary notes. Those with complaints have not written. If you are not due a renewal notice this year, and would like to participate, let us know.*

## SOME RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Your magazine helps me remember what to do with my camellias and fuchsias. I only have a few plants in containers, but they need care at certain times. Thank you for your articles on roses. I have about 40 plants of all types on my 1/2 acre. Many are in pots because of the problem of proper drainage of adobe soil. I do have decomposed granite on about one-third, and some are doing all right in that area. Gardening is fun and your magazine is more helpful than others in the area. I also take *Over the Hedge* and *National Gardening*, but I recommend *California Garden* to all new gardeners in San Diego County.

Mrs. E(L)S El Cajon

I am new to gardening and everything you write about is of great interest to me.

I am particularly interested in how others have managed to poor soil conditions in San Diego County.

Hoping to become an expert gardener one day. Sincerely,  
SN San Diego

I love your magazine just the way it is. I certainly enjoy it. Thank you.  
MdelRT San Diego

I look forward to receiving each issue, as I have for decades; you are doing a wonderful service to San Diego gardeners. Regards,  
RDB La Mesa

I can't improve on your content—it is wonderful!  
JB Ventura

I love this magazine—especially the section on what to do each month.  
MPB La Jolla

A great magazine, who cares that it's not "slick"—great information. *California Garden* more than any other Southern California publication has "reeducated" me to San Diego gardening, as I left my beloved Massachusetts. Thanks!  
Mrs. M San Diego

Love your magazine!  
Mrs. JNP San Marino

I love the *California Garden* magazine.  
HK Chula Vista

We try to plant enough vegetables so birds and bugs can't take all. Our garden has no toxic pest control, so we like to learn how to outsmart bugs. Sow Bugs are instruments of the devil!

Our Tamarack hoe—and swan-neck hoe from Holland are good tools ordered from Garden Supply in Vermont. The Tamarack is a manual rotary cultivator that uses person power—no electricity or fuel. Local tool stores do not sell such tools. Why not?

As we get older, our concrete block (16 inches high) grow beds are appreciated more. Cats, skunks, and possums dig more at ground level and disturb grow bed soil less often.

Would like to know about beneficial insects—nematodes, etc.—and about plant propagation. Please and thanks.

JB San Diego

*We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.*

In the November-December 1994 issue, we ran an article, "Planting Ants" by Richard D. Jones. It concerned the Papago Indian's traditional method of growing tepary beans. We happened on a source for three kinds of these beans (*Phaseolus acutifolius*). One was developed by the Papago tribe. SEEDS OF CHANGE, P. O. Box 15700, Santa Fe, NM 87506-5700, tel. 505/438-8080, seed packets are \$1.99.

They say that all their seed is certified

organically grown and is appropriate for all parts of the US and Canada. They do not use USDA climate zones, however. So, if you care to experiment with these unusual beans, we cannot say how well they would do in a particular climate.

## ADDRESSES

(cover)  
We believe that Ilse Scheer has moved away. Can anyone give us either her present or previous address?

(page 37)  
*Public Gardens of California: A Visitor's Guide* by Eric Sigg is available in stores or by mail order from Golden State Garden Books, 17908 Villamora Dr., Poway CA 92064. \$18.50 includes tax and handling.

(page 38)  
Cynthia R. Drake  
Landscape Designs and Tree Consulting  
9842 Hibert Street, #276  
San Diego CA 92131

(page 46)  
DUSTY CRAIG  
14945 Conchos Drive  
Poway CA 92064-2634  
The author's garden is open year round for viewing at all stages of growth. To see the roses in action, the best time of year is the month of April. Call 619/486-4339 for no-cost private tours.

(page 42)  
Valerie Almond  
Nature's Creation Art Studio  
9821 SE Bell Avenue  
Portland OR 97222, tel 503/775-8721

(page 41)  
Brecht Orchid Gardens  
1989 Harbor Blvd.  
Costa Mesa CA 92627-2668  
tel 714/548-2314, 9:30AM-5:00PM,  
closed Sunday and Monday

(page 45)  
Marc Bell, Botanical Design  
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Open by appointment, his La Mesa garden of one acre has thousands of plants in theme settings.



# SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

## Garden Center and Library - Founded in 1907

### Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619

### 619/232-5762

*Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California*

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

**1996**

**April 16**

June 18, October 15

5:45 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

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436-9505

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San Diego CA 92163-1456

Last Tue - Sep/Nov/Feb/Apr

6:30 pm, Casa del Prado

##### QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS

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436-3036

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Encinitas CA 92023-0005

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##### FOUNDATION

President

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940-0902

33 Via Larga Vista

Bonsall CA 92003

1st Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado

#### GARDEN CLUBS:

##### BERNARDO GARDENER'S CLUB

Mrs. Maxine Schimmel

451-3482

18193 Calle Estepona

San Diego CA 92128-1580

3rd Thu - 1:30 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,

Rancho Bernardo

##### BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Norma Illingworth

479-3478

4822 Whippoorwill Lane

Bonita CA 91902-1724

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

Sweetwater Road

##### BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Toni Hoppe

435-5669

741 Cabrillo Avenue

Coronado CA 92118-2915

##### CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber

427-3184

1272 Pecan Place

Chula Vista CA 91911-3731

3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park Senior Center

##### CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Virginia Soderberg

582-7098

6197 Arno Drive

San Diego CA 92120-4628

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

##### CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Pres: Mr. David E. Sigsworth

435-5028

P. O. Box 180188

Coronado CA 92118-0188

##### CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan

435-1938

111 Alder Street

Coronado CA 92118-2422

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

##### DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sarah Beers

749-2140

P. O. Box 123

Valley Center CA 92082-0123

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

##### ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Josephine Killingsworth

598-7157

1658 Promontory Ridge Way

Vista CA 92083-5435

##### FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Betty Henry

731-0706

P. O. Box 1702

Fallbrook CA 92028-0926

##### FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

Chrm: Mrs. Angela Talbot

454-9200

1738 Castellana

La Jolla CA 92037-3838

2nd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

##### GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Dolores Smith

464-2457

7443 Orient Avenue

La Mesa CA 91941-7730

2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

##### LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship

454-4109

5427 Taft Avenue

La Jolla CA 92037-7641

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

##### LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mildred Digenan

443-1529

P. O. Box 122

Lakeside CA 92040-0122

3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical

Church, 9906 Maine Avenue

##### LAS JARDINERAS

Pres: Mrs. Gretchen Allen

222-3643

356 San Geronio Street

San Diego CA 92106-3342

3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.

# CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

|                                       |  |          |                                   |  |          |                             |  |          |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY | Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields<br>1215 Amador Avenue<br>Vista CA 92083-5621<br>4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T-700 | 724-3749 | IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 | Pres: Yoshie Sesma<br>2422 Harcourt Drive<br>San Diego CA 92123-3608<br>4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado                   | 279-2511 | SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. | Pres: Lucinda Grove<br>3155 Vista de Chaparros<br>Jamul CA 91935-3318<br>2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado              | 669-0542 |
|                                       | MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB  |          |                                   | IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO   |          |                             | BROMELIAD  |          |
|                                       | Pres: Renate Ritter<br>3538 Turquoise Lane<br>Oceanside CA 92056-4870<br>3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T8     | 945-1287 |                                   | Pres: Mrs. Charles Oehler<br>2822 Walker Drive<br>San Diego CA 92123-3056  | 278-5689 |                             | BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK   |          |
| PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB             | Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda<br>1544 Oliver Avenue<br>San Diego CA 92109-5321<br>2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Recreation Center                                      | 272-9727 |                                   | OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER   |          |                             | Pres: Ken Campos<br>3235 Grape Street<br>San Diego CA 92102-1235<br>2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado                    | 232-6761 |
| POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB                | Pres: Elaine Marshall<br>1407 Santa Barbara Street<br>San Diego CA 92107-3930<br>2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church                         | 223-8708 |                                   | Pres: Connie Davis<br>P. O. Box 500765<br>San Diego CA 92150-0765<br>2nd Tues - 10:00 am                                     | 672-0128 |                             | SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY  |          |
| POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB              | Pres: Lou Ann Unger<br>P. O. Box 27<br>Poway CA 92064-5259   | 788-1393 |                                   | OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO CHAPTER  |          |                             | Pres: Joyce Brehm<br>5080 Dawne Street<br>San Diego CA 92117-1351<br>4th Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado                   | 277-1030 |
| RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB           | Pres: Mr. Harold Sexton<br>Hort Chrm: Mrs. Carol Streeter<br>P. O. Box 483<br>Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483<br>2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club          | 756-1554 |                                   | Pres: Mrs. Walter Bourland<br>2936 Havasupai Avenue<br>San Diego CA 92117-1641   | 276-4667 |                             | CACTUS & SUCCULENT PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  |          |
| SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB                | Pres: Dorothy Driscoll<br>6338 Athabaska Place<br>San Diego CA 92119-3527<br>4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members  | 463-6700 |                                   | SOGETSU SCHOOL OF IKEBANA SAN DIEGO BRANCH   |          |                             | Pres: Ronald A. Chisum<br>P. O. Box 840<br>Escondido CA 92033-0840<br>4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido       | 753-3651 |
| SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB              | Pres: Mary Netusil<br>912 Emma Drive<br>Cardiff CA 92007-1411<br>4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens   | 753-1044 |                                   | Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey<br>2829 Flax Drive<br>San Diego CA 92154-2160   | 429-6198 |                             | SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY   |          |
| SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB              | Pres: Cindy Drake<br>9842 Hibert Street #276<br>San Diego CA 92131-1096<br>4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library                                    | 271-8933 |                                   | PLANT SOCIETIES:   |          |                             | Pres: Mr. Joseph Betzler<br>P. O. Box 33181<br>San Diego CA 92163-3181<br>2nd Sat - 1:00 pm, Casa del Prado              | 239-0804 |
| THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA   | Pres: Donna Derrick<br>3914 Gresham Street<br>San Diego CA 92109-5802<br>4th Thu - 10:00 am, United Methodist Church, LJ                               | 273-2489 |                                   | AFRICAN VIOLETS  |          |                             | CAMELLIA   |          |
| THE VISTA GARDEN CLUB                 | Pres: Betty Larson<br>1390 Andorra Court<br>Vista CA 92083-5017<br>1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Center   | 727-0731 |                                   | HEARTLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY   |          |                             | SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY   |          |
| IKEBANA SCHOOLS                       |  |          |                                   | Pres: Pat Akers<br>219 Loma Vista Place<br>El Cajon CA 92021-4235<br>3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Wells Park Ctr, El Cajon             | 579-1975 |                             | Pres: Dean Turney<br>631 W. Pennsylvania Avenue<br>San Diego CA 92103-3949<br>3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado          | 299-5418 |
| ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA              |  |          |                                   | SAN DIEGO DAYTIME AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY   |          |                             | DAHLIA   |          |
| SAN DIEGO CHAPTER                     | Pres: Haruko Crawford<br>10411 San Carlos Drive<br>Spring Valley CA 91978-1034   | 660-2046 |                                   | Pres: Beverly Decker<br>373 Hihill Way<br>El Cajon CA 92020-2935<br>2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church        | 442-7484 |                             | SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY  |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | BEGONIA  |          |                             | Pres: Gerald Lohmann<br>6616 Rockglen Avenue<br>San Diego CA 92111-4108<br>4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado             | 279-5135 |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH  |          |                             | EPIPHYLLUM   |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY   |          |                             | SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY   |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | Pres: Eileen Clause<br>5658 Linda Rosa Avenue<br>La Jolla CA 92037-7538<br>2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members               | 459-4706 |                             | Pres: Phil Peck<br>P. O. Box 632911<br>San Diego CA 92163-2911<br>2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado                      | 491-9495 |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | PALOMAR BRANCH   |          |                             | FERN   |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY   |          |                             | SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY   |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | Pres: Ingaborg Foo<br>1050 Melrose Way<br>Vista CA 92083-6504  | 724-4871 |                             | Pres: Donald Callard<br>2201 El Amigo Road<br>Del Mar CA 92014-3027<br>3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado                 | 792-5662 |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | SAN MIGUEL BRANCH  |          |                             | FRUIT  |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY   |          |                             | CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS  |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins<br>910 Fern Street<br>Escondido CA 92027-1708<br>Last Sat - 10:30 am, Home of Members             | 746-4743 |                             | Pres: Saul Goldstein<br>976 Barrett Avenue<br>Chula Vista CA 91911<br>4th Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado                  | 427-7775 |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | BONSAI   |          |                             | FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS   |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | HON NON BO ASSOCIATION   |          |                             | SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY  |          |
|                                       |  |          |                                   | Pres: Lit Phan<br>P. O. Box 235<br>Alpine CA 91903-0235<br>1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)<br>10:30 am, Casa del Prado |          |                             | Pres: Richard Hubbell<br>15420 Olde Highway 80, Space 175<br>El Cajon CA 92021-2427<br>2nd Mon - 7:00 pm, Casa del Prado | 443-3706 |





**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR  
FLORIADE IV AT THE  
BANNING RESIDENCE MUSEUM  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1996**

This is a unique event. It is this country's version of the world-famous flower show—Amsterdam's Floriade.

It brings the style, design, and artistry of the area's top floral landscape and interior designers together. It celebrates the pure, unparalleled beauty of flowers. The creative and innovative work of these floral and landscape artists will be displayed in the halls and many of the mansion's vintage-decorated rooms—in its historic stagecoach barn—throughout the grounds surrounding the 1864 Greek Revival General Phineas Banning mansion.

The barn has restored carriages, such as a lady's runabout with a wide berth (so it could accommodate a dress) and a 1906 formal carriage. There also is a very beautiful wisteria arbor/rose garden with approximately three hundred rose bushes. Before returning home, we will stop at a nursery where you will be able to browse for a while.

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
FLORIADE IV — BANNING RESIDENCE  
MUSEUM TOUR  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1996**

- ☐ \$45.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)  
☐ \$48.00 Non-members, members of affiliates  
(Lunch is included)

Make checks payable to  
San Diego Floral Association  
Mail to SDFA  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
San Diego, California 92101-1619

Please include a stamped/addressed envelope

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

**PICK-UPS**

- ☐ Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:30AM  
☐ Mission Valley (east end) on Camino del Este 8:00AM  
☐ Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad 8:30AM

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
BASKET CRAFT AND FLOWER  
ARRANGING CLASSES  
CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK  
9:30AM TO 2:30PM  
CALL MARIE WALSH, 298-5182 OR 232-5762  
PLEASE PREREGISTER!**

There have been some changes in dates or fees for "American Contemporary Spring Flower Arranging" and "Art Alive Workshop." Please check below.

**Basket Craft Classes**

**RANDOM WEAVE FERN BASKET,**  
Tuesday, February 27

Instructor, Kathy Walsh, **Fee \$15**

Make an easy, fluffy, feminine basket using live asparagus fern (provided). Bring clippers, gloves, and lunch.

**DRACAENA (DRAGON TREE) BASKET**  
Tuesday, March 12

Instructor, Kathy Walsh, **Fee \$20**

Materials provided to construct your own "square shopper" basket of dracaena. Bring clippers, bucket, and lunch.

**Flower Arranging**

**AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY SPRING FLOWER  
ARRANGING, March 19, April 2, April 9**  
Instructor, Velma West, **Fee \$35 for 3 classes**

Award-winning flower arranger, **Velma West**, will give instruction in line design, line mass design, and mass design for spring flower arranging. Bring flowers, vase in a bucket, clippers, and lunch.

**"ART ALIVE" WORKSHOP, Tuesday, April 16**  
Instructor, Adrienne Green, Open to members of SDFA, no fee, **preregistration required**, maximum of fifteen participants.

A workshop critiquing arrangements and instructing people interested in submitting works for "Art Alive." Bring lunch, flowers, vases in a bucket, and clippers.

**BASKET-CRAFT CLASSES**

- ☐ Random Weave Fern Basket  
☐ Dracaena (Dragon Tree) Basket

**FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES**

- ☐ American Contemporary Spring Flower Arranging  
☐ "Art Alive" Workshop

Amount enclosed \$ . . . . Make check payable to San Diego Floral Association. SEND TO: San Diego Floral Assoc., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619

NAME  
PHONE

ADDRESS  
CITY, ZIP

("Avocados" continued from page 40)  
regular semi-annual meetings.

Avocados need good drainage. Most of the roots are in the top 2 feet of the soil, so water lightly and often. Leaf yellowing, chlorosis, is fairly common but the addition of iron sulfate or iron chelate will cure the problem quickly.

Size can be controlled by pruning. An average tree will grow to about 30 feet tall with wide spreading branches.

After maturing, trees tend to rotate crops—light one year, heavy the next. Fingerling avocados (sometimes sold as cocktail avocados) are seedless. They form when strong winds or sudden heat cause the embryo of the pollinated flower to die. If these appear one year it does not indicate that all future crops will be this way. Avocados can be picked before they are completely ripe and kept at room temperature until they soften. If you need a ripe one, they can be ripened in a microwave on the medium setting (50% power) for two minutes. Turn it over and zap for another minute.

Most avocados are eaten raw. In the late '20s it was always served in the half-shell, the seed-hole filled with an orange French dressing. It was eaten with a spoon and was considered to be a salad. By the '30s it also was cut up and placed in lime Jello. (This was a must for any buffet or holiday table.) People were experimenting and avocado cakes, milkshakes, and ice cream were popular. Now, it is a salad ingredient, one of the items in a California Sushi, and no Mexican meal would be complete without guacamole. If made ahead of time, the smashed avocado, the main ingredient of guacamole, will not turn black if the seed is placed in the dish (remove seed before serving). Some people use lemon juice, but that changes the taste. In case you do not have a recipe, basic guacamole consists of ripe avocado—peeled and mashed. Sometimes it is mixed with some chopped green and/or brown onion. Some people add diced chilies, diced tomatoes and/or several spoonfuls of salsa. Recently I have tasted some made with mayonnaise or cream cheese, but that is not San Diego style.

There are many varieties of avocados available now. Consult with your nurseryman. The trees differ in size, the fruit differs in texture, and the crop seasons vary. Also check on ones that will do well in your area as some need more heat than others, and some are more resistant to cold. Choose the one that will suit your needs. □

*Barbara S. Jones has been gardening inside and outside in San Diego for over sixty years.*

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**SUNDAY** U. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA NITBOGE GARDEN, dinner together in Gastown.  
**MONDAY** Stanley Park Totems, PRIVATE GARDEN on the water, a walk in Light House  
Park woods, Drive north to Squamish along Howe Sound.  
**TUESDAY** BLOEDEL CONSERVATORY AND ELIZABETH PARK ROSE GARDEN, Free  
afternoon, optional play or concert.  
**WEDNESDAY** MINTER GARDEN in Fraser River Valley.  
**THURSDAY** FANTASY GARDEN WORLD, finish VANDUSEN BOTANIC GARDEN,  
free afternoon.  
**FRIDAY** Ferry to Victoria, rest of day at BUTCHART GARDENS.  
**SATURDAY** DAY IN VICTORIA, Suggestions: Tea at Empress Hotel, Government  
House Garden, Provincial Museum, double decker buses.  
**SUNDAY** Ferry to Mainland, fly home.

**ESCORTS** Betty Newton - teacher, San Diego Union-Tribune columnist  
Thom Ferrar - enthusiastic gardener, friend, nurse.  
**LODGING** Vancouver/Bed and Breakfasts  
Victoria/charming Oak Bay Beach Hotel  
**COST** Per person Double-\$1340, Single-\$1740, Triple-\$1140.  
Includes air fare, lodging, 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 3 dinners.  
**CANCELLATION** \$50.00 penalty for cancellations prior to May 10th.  
After May 10th, cancellation penalty is \$200.00.

For Reservations Call  
*Betty Newton*

**444-4099**  
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Full payment due by May 10, 1996

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**NOW** is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

All this and a great monthly newsletter for only \$7.50 (single membership) or \$10.00 (dual membership) per year. Don't delay, make your check out today to the SDCOS and mail to:



Vivian Follmer  
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(619) 538-6187



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# Advantages of Establishing a Natural Kelp & Saponin Organic Landscape



*Organic landscapes provide significant savings overall (up to 90%), because Natural Kelp and Saponin landscapes cost little more to install than the chemically maintained landscapes created by most commercial developers using inferior, wood shaving "composts." After the second and third years, organic landscapes and gardens start to pay for themselves in water and chemical savings.*

**Safe**  
**Effective**  
**Affordable**  
**Sustainable**

- ☒ Water savings: 90%+ over all wood-product landscapes;
- ☒ Elimination of toxic and hazardous chemical fertilizers forever;
- ☒ Savings of over 90% on sewer bills;
- ☒ Stress resistant: stronger, healthier plants are resistant to heat, cold, pests and diseases;
- ☒ Elimination of compacted soils;
- ☒ Organic landscapes treat the soil permanently and require very little costly maintenance;
- ☒ Organic landscapes are safe for children, pets and God's good worms;
- ☒ Organic gardens, farms & groves produce abundant food with flavor;
- ☒ Organic soils are healthy, fertile and abounding with life;

**Wholesale to the Public • By the Bag or the Truckload**  
**Call or write today for a FREE consultation,**  
**information and field testing: 619/239-KELP**

**THE AMERICAN KELP CORPORATION**

*We use only Non-Toxic Organic Products*

**WORLD LEADER** in the development of organic growth stimulant products

For FREE INFORMATION on how you can start or rejuvenate your Organic Garden, Farm, Grove or Landscape, complete and return this form today. Our team of organic professionals is ready to help!

**RETURN COUPON TO**

The American Kelp Corporation  
PO Box 370178  
San Diego, California 92137-0178

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
I Grow \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_